Sl. No.	State/Circle	by BSNL	by Pvt. optr.	Total
15.	North East-II	4811	—	4811
16.	Orissa	11632	—	11632
17.	Punjab	0	0	0
18.	Rajasthan	0	17338	17388
19.	Tamil Nadu	0	—	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	5688	—	5688
21.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	0	—	0
22.	Uttaranchal	5607	—	5607
23.	West Bengal	4178	—	4178
24.	Calcutta	0	—	0
25.	Delhi	0	—	0
	TOTAL:	**69440**	**60604**	**130044**

Branch Post Offices in H.P.

†4526. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prescribed norms are relaxed for opening of branch post offices in remote, hilly and border States, like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the conditions that are relaxed;

(c) the number of branch post offices targeted to be opened and upgraded in Himachal Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan and whether this target has been achieved and if so, the details; and

(d) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan along with the details of the action plan for its completion?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The norms for opening the Branch Post Offices including the relaxed norms for remote and hilly areas are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) A target of opening of 36 new Branch Post Office in Himachal Pradesh was fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan and 20 new Branch Post Offices were opened. The opening and upgradation of Branch Post Office was subject to the fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

(d) There is provision of fixing target for opening of new post offices in each year of Tenth Five Year Plan. Achieving of target is subject to the fulfilment of norms prescribed for opening of new post offices and availability of requisite resources.

Statement

Norms for Opening Post Offices

1. Norms for opening Extra Department Branch Post Office:

1.1 Population:

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by

the Directorate in case where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be $33^{1}/_{3}$% of te cost.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Department Sub Post Officces:

(a) *In Rural Areas:*

The minimum work load of the Extra Department Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural Areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Faridabad

4527. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the waiting list for telephone connections in Faridabad in general and Sehatpur, Saraswati colony in particular under Faridabad telecom circle;

(b) whether any plan had been chalked out to allot telephone connections in a time-bound manner for the above wait-listed consumers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The waiting list in Faridabad town as on 30.4.2002 is 2203 and in Saraswati Colony, Sehatpur the waiting list is 7.